

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the surface energy is such that, in use in a liquid crystal cell, the photopolymer imparts a predetermined orientation of the liquid crystal director with respect to the local surface normal.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 2 wherein the predetermined orientation is a homeotropic orientation.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +27 wherein the first short chain polymerisable material is an oligomer or diluent.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 4 wherein the second short chain polymerisable material is a monomer.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the mixture further comprises an additive.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 6 wherein the additive reduces the surface energy of the cured mixture.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 7 wherein the additive is an acrylate or an epoxy functionallised polydimethyl siloxane material.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the surface energy is less than 4×10^{-2} N/m.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the surface energy of the cured photopolymer has a dispersive energy of between 12 mN/m and 40 mN/m and a polar energy of between 0. O mN/m and 15 mN/m.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the mixture comprises an immiscible component.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the immiscible component comprises one of the polymerisable materials.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 11 wherein the immiscible component comprises a solid particulate.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim +19 wherein the proportion of first material to second material is such so as to give a predetermined viscosity and refractive index.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 12 wherein the refractive index of the alignment layer is between 1.35 and 1.80.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~photopolymer mixture~~ liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 12 wherein the viscosity of the uncured photopolymer is between 5 centipoise and 10 poise.

17. (Currently Amended) A photopolymer mixture liquid crystal alignment layer comprising as claimed in claim 19 wherein the a first component polymerisable material and the second component polymerisable material together being capable of are cured to form a polymeric material having a predetermined surface energy.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a polymerised photopolymer bearing a surface profile characterised in that wherein the polymerised photopolymer comprises a cured photopolymer mixture as claimed in claim 1 which has been cured comprising at least a first polymerisable material and a second polymerisable material in proportion such that the mixture has a predetermined surface energy.

20. (Original) A liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 19 wherein the alignment layer is formed on a substrate and surface energy of the alignment layer in contact with the substrate is greater than the surface energy of the alignment layer which, in use, contacts the liquid crystal material.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal cell comprising a liquid crystal material located between two cell walls wherein at least one of the cell walls carries an alignment layer according to claim 19.

23. (Original) A liquid crystal cell as claimed in claim 22 wherein the alignment layer has the same apparent refractive index as the liquid crystal material.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of making an alignment layer for a liquid crystal material comprising the steps of;

i) taking a photopolymer mixture,

ii) introducing the photopolymer mixture to a substrate,
iii) taking a master bearing an inverse of the desired grating and impressing it into the photopolymer mixture on the substrate,
iv) curing the photopolymer mixture on the substrate, and v) removing the master from the cured photopolymer mixture characterised in that the photopolymer mixture comprises the photopolymer mixture according to claim 1.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of making an alignment layer as claimed in claim 24 wherein the photopolymer mixture has a component which has a lower surface energy than the rest of the mixture and the step of curing the photopolymer mixture involves curing the mixture such that there is a greater concentration of the lower surface energy component at one surface of the cured mixture than the other.

26. (Withdrawn) A photopolymer mixture comprising a first polymerisable material and a second polymerisable material, the proportion of firstpolymerisable material to secondpolymerisable material being such that the photopolymer mixture has a predetermined viscosity and refractive index.

27. (New) A liquid crystal alignment layer as claimed in claim 19 wherein the first polymerisable material is a short chain polymerisable material and the second polymerisable material is a short chain polymerisable material.